

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00408 151824Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0408

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) MAPUTO 382; (B) MAPUTO 383; (C) CAPE TOWN 547

1. SUMMARY: FURTHER DETAILS ON OWEN'S MEETINGS WITH
MACHEL AND CHISSANO. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN SHARES ASSESS-
MENT THAT MEETING WITH MACHEL WAS "VERY POSITIVE."
LEWEN THINKS MACHEL IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE OWEN
PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT DOES NOT ENTAIL CESSATION OF THE
ARMED STRUGGLE.
END SUMMARY

2. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO REFTEL C
REPORT OF THE OWEN-MACHEL MEETING. HE SAID THAT UNLIKE
THE MACHEL-RICHARD MEETING IN JANUARY (MAPUTO 027,
WHEN MACHEL VOICED RESERVATIONS ABOUT RICHARD'S
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PROPOSAL FOR RESUMING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THIS TIME
MACHEL DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE
PROPOSAL, OR AT LEAST HE DID NOT DISCLOSE THEM AT THE
MEETING IF HE DID. AMBASSADOR LEWEN THOUGHT THAT MACHEL
FOUND OWEN'S PROPOSAL ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT
ENTAIL CESSATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE, WHEREAS WITH
EARLIER UK PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM

GOVERNMENT MACHEL FEARED THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT LEAD TO A CESSATION OF FIGHTING BEFORE INDEPENDENCE OR MAJORITY RULE WAS GUARANTEED.

3. FOR THE RECORD, AT THE OWEN-MACHEL MEETING:

--THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND WAS NOT MENTIONED.
--WHEN OWEN DISCUSSED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FRONT LINE STATES IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, HE TALKED ALWAYS OF "FOUR" FRONT LINE STATES. BY IMPLICATION EXCLUDING ANGOLA, THIS DID NOT ELICIT COMMENT FROM MACHEL.
--MACHEL DID NOT URGE THAT MARCH 1978, BE THE TARGET DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE, EVEN THOUGH IN HIS LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER OF FEBRUARY 28, HE HAD STRESSED MOZAMBIQUE'S COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE BEFORE MARCH 1, 1978.
--OWEN MADE IT CLEAR TO MACHEL THAT THE UK IS NOT IN A POSITION TO APPLY SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.
--ALSO ATTENDING MEETING WERE FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO, MINISTER OF INFORMATION REBELO, MINISTER OF STATE MONTEIRO, DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION FERNANDO HONWANA AND DEPUTY IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT LUIS HONWANA.

4. ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE OWEN- CHISSANO MEETING:

--OWEN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND ASKED CHISSANO HOW HE SAW THE SITUATION. CHISSANO SAID THAT HE DID NOT VIEW FIGHTING IN SHABA AS A DRIVE FOR KATANGAN SEPARATISM, BUT AS AN EXPRESSION OF GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. OWEN DID NOT PURSUE. CHISSANO SAID HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF OWEN'S
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CONCERN.

--OWEN MENTIONED IN PASSING THE RECENT FIVE-POWER DEMARCH TO SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA, THERE WAS NO FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION.

--AS MEETING WAS BREAKING UP, CHISSANO REMARKED THAT "AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD WE ARE NOW RED" (LEWEN SAID CHISSANO WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO THE RESULTS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED FRELIMO PARTY CONGRESS), BUT WENT ON TO INSIST THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS STILL VERY MUCH INDEPENDENT. HE ADDED THAT MOZAMBIQUE WANTS TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: WHILE MACHEL SEEMS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH OWEN'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT CALL FOR A "PREMATURE" CESSATION OF GUERRILLA HOSTILITIES, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE A HELP OR HINDRANCE IF THE CONFERENCE DOES COME ABOUT. DESPITE THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES SUFFERED BY MOZAMBIQUE FROM CONTINUED FIGHTING,

I DO NOT BELIEVE MACHEL IS AS YET READY TO MAKE MANY,
IF ANY, CONCESSIONS TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE.
I DO NOT EXPECT HIM TO LET UP IN HIS EFFORTS TO AC-
CELERATE THE ARMED STRUGGLE AND TO STRENGTHEN HIS DEFENSES
AGAINST RHODESIAN INCURSIONS.
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